

On ‘Nation’s Report Card,’ Catholic school students outperform peers in mathematics at public schools

Catholic school students earned high grades in mathematics in comparison to their public school peers on the Nation’s Report Card™ for 2009. This “report card” communicates the findings of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), an ongoing and nationally representative measure of elementary and secondary student achievement in various subjects over time.

According to NAEP, the average mathematics score for fourth-graders attending Catholic schools was 6 points higher than for public school students in 2009. Catholic school eighth-graders also increased their mathematics score from 2007 to 2009, outperforming their public school peers by 15 points. This represents a widening of the achievement gap between eighth grade Catholic school and public school students.

Since 1969, NAEP assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and other subjects. NAEP, a congressionally authorized project within the U.S. Department of Education, collects and reports information on student performance at the national and state levels, making the assessment an integral part of our nation’s evaluation of the condition and progress of education.

Nationally representative samples of more than 168,000 fourth-graders and 161,000 eighth-graders participated in the 2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in mathematics. At each grade, students responded to questions designed to measure their knowledge and abilities across five mathematics content areas: number properties and operations; measurement; geometry; data analysis, statistics, and probability; and algebra.

Ninety-one percent of fourth-graders in the nation attended public schools in 2009, and 9 percent attended private schools, including 4 percent in Catholic schools. Ninety-one percent of eighth-graders attended public schools in 2009, and 9 percent attended private schools, including 5 percent in Catholic schools.

***Taken from the Nation’s Report Card™ Mathematics 2009
National Assessment of Educational Progress at Grades 4 and 8***

NAEP website

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>

NAEP report

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/main2009/2010451.pdf>